

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-38 (Canceled).

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): A waterproof vapor-permeable multilayer article, comprising:

at least one first layer made of a material that is vapor-permeable and microporous, said first layer material being further selected from a group comprising materials that are at least partially hygroscopic and material that can assume hygroscopic characteristics over time; and

at least one second layer that is waterproof and vapor-permeable and is a plasma deposited ultrathin film of (1) an oil-repellent and water-repellent fluoropolymer or (2) a polysiloxane.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The multilayer article according to claim 39, wherein said at least one first layer comprises a base of polyolefin and a filler made of filler particles.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The multilayer article according to claim 40, wherein the molecular weight of said polyolefin is at least 500,000 g/mole.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The multilayer article according to claim 41, wherein the molecular weight of said polyolefin is between 4×10^6 g/mole and 7×10^6 g/mole.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The multilayer article according to claim 40, wherein said polyolefin is constituted by a material selected from a group consisting of isotactic polypropylene and polyethylene.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The multilayer article according to claim 40, wherein said filler is silicon dioxide SiO₂.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): The multilayer article according to claim 44, wherein an average diameter of the filler particles of silicon dioxide SiO₂ is substantially between 0.01 ~~µm~~ µm and 20 µm, while an average surface area of said fillers is substantially between 30 m²/g and 950 m²/g.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The multilayer article according to claim 44, wherein an average surface area of said filler particles is at least 100 m²/g.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The multilayer article according to claim 39, wherein said at least one first layer made of microporous material has a pore size of less than 1 µm in diameter.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The multilayer article according to claim 47, wherein more than 50% of the pores of said at least one first layer made of microporous material have a diameter of less than 0.5 µm.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The multilayer article according to claim 48, wherein the porosity of said at least one first layer made of microporous material is at least 50%.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): The multilayer article according to claim 39, wherein said at least one first layer made of microporous material has a thickness ~~comprised~~ between 200 μm and 1.5 cm.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): The multilayer article according to claim 50, wherein said at least one first layer made of microporous material has a thickness between 200 μm and 600 μm .

Claim 52-55 (Cancelled).

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): The multilayer article according to claim 39, wherein said at least one second layer is ~~composed of a polymer based on fluoropolymer or a plasma deposited ultrathin film of a polysiloxane, said at least one second layer adhering to said first layer by spreading or immersing said first layer in a bath of said polymer.~~

Claim 57-60 (Cancelled).

Claim 61 (Currently Amended): The multilayer article as set forth in claim 39, ~~comprising the step of providing wherein said~~ at least one second layer ~~of material that is constituted by a plasma deposited ultrathin film obtained by way of a plasma deposition treatment of a monomer.~~

Claim 62 (Currently Amended): The multilayer article of claim 61, wherein the ~~step~~ ~~for plasma~~ deposited ultrathin film is deposited by plasma deposition treatment is carried out ~~by working in~~ under high-vacuum cold plasma conditions.

Claim 63 (Currently Amended): The multilayer article of claim 62, wherein said ~~step~~ ~~for plasma~~ deposition treatment is carried out ~~by~~ using a radiofrequency generator so that an electrical field in the treatment oscillates with a frequency substantially between 13 MHz and 14 MHz.

Claim 64 (Currently Amended): The multilayer article according to claim 63, wherein said ~~step~~ ~~for plasma~~ deposition treatment is carried out ~~by~~ using a radiofrequency generator so that an electrical field in the treatment oscillates with a frequency on the order of 13.56 MHz.

Claim 65 (Currently Amended): The multilayer article of claim 64, wherein the ~~step~~ ~~for plasma~~ deposition treatment is carried out ~~by~~ using a power of the electrical field applied in the treatment that is substantially between 50 watts and 700 watts.

Claim 66 (Previously Presented): The multilayer article of claim 65, wherein the duration of said plasma deposition treatment for a siloxane-based monomer is between 160 and 600 seconds.

Claim 67 (Previously Presented): The multilayer article according to claim 66, wherein the duration of said plasma deposition treatment for a siloxane-based monomer is substantially equal to 420 seconds.

Claim 68 (Previously Presented): The multilayer article according to claim 67, wherein the level of vacuum in said plasma deposition treatment is substantially between 10^{-1} mbar and 10^{-5} mbar.

Claim 69 (Currently Amended): The multilayer article according to claim 61, wherein the ~~step for~~ plasma deposition treatment is carried out by working in high-vacuum cold plasma conditions ~~and by~~ using a radiofrequency generator so that an electrical field in the treatment oscillates with a frequency on the order of 13.75 MHz, with an applied electrical field power of 300-500 watts, and a vacuum level ~~comprised~~ between 10^{-1} and 10^{-5} mbar.

Claim 70 (Currently Amended): The multilayer article of claim 69, wherein ~~the plasma deposition precursor material~~ said monomer is a siloxane-based monomer.

Claim 71 (Cancelled).

Claim 72 (Currently Amended): The multilayer article of claim 69, wherein ~~the material of~~ said at least one second layer is a plasma deposited ultrathin film of a polysiloxane.

Claims 73-74 (Cancelled).

Claim 75 (Withdrawn): A method for producing a multilayer article according to claim 72, comprising the steps of:

- loading the first layer to be coated into a reaction chamber;
- bringing the reaction chamber to a preset vacuum pressure;
- starting plasma generating electrical discharge;
- injecting vaporized precursor monomer into said reaction chamber; and
- waiting for a preset deposition time.

Claim 76 (Withdrawn): A production method according to claim 75, comprising a pretreatment step that consists of the surface cleaning of said first layer by subjecting it to an inert gas that is injected into said reaction chamber.

Claim 77 (New): The multilayer article of claim 39, wherein said at least one second layer is a plasma deposited ultrathin film on a microporous backing material.

Claim 78 (New): The multilayer article of claim 77, wherein said at least one second layer is a plasma deposited ultrathin film of a polysiloxane on a microporous polyethylene backing material or a microporous polystyrene backing material.